This Issue of the A. F. of L. Weekly News Service Consists of 2 Pages

The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives more accurate and editorial information of matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

Entered as second-class matter September 30, 1912, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of August 24, 1912. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Sec. 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized July 12, 1918.

Trust not him that once hath broken faith.—Shakespeare.

WHOLE NO. 1476 WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, JULY 29, 1939. FRANK MORRISON, Secretary-Treasurer VOL. 29, NO. 30

FACING *the* FACTS

With PHILIP PEARL

Dictator Lewis has declared war all over again on the American Federation of Labor. Chief Big Had Wolf of the C. I. O., loudly beating the tomtoms, has returned to the warpath. Watch out for him. He is carrying a warped and mildewed bow and a moth-eaten arrow.

That's about the size of the latest threat—or bluff—to raid the building trades unions through the agency of an organizing committee headed by little brother Denny Lewis. Do you know Denny Lewis? He's a heavyweight—from the neck down. Just reading about his appointment to lead the fight against the firmly entrenched and powerful building trades unions of the A. F. of L. reminds us of the practice of certain baseball managers when their team is losing by a score of 15 to 0 of putting in a "concede" pitcher. Denny Lewis is a "concede" pitcher if there ever was one.

Aside from its ludicrousness, Big Brother Lewis' new move is significant in one respect—it clearly indicates his state of mind. If further proof were needed that Lewis has not the slightest desire or intention of making peace with the American Federation of Labor, here it is in black and white. Sidney Hillman, please take notice.

You will remember that Mr. Hillman, who is John L.'s chief bat-boy, predicted a short time ago that there would be peace in organized labor within a year. Undoubtedly Mr. Hillman wanted peace. He wanted it so much that he even dared to differ publicly with Mr. Lewis when the latter recently declared peace was "impossible." We wonder how Mr. Hillman feels now.

Where Are the Promises of Yesterday?

And we also wonder how these people who joined the C. I. O. in the belief that it was going to "organize the unorganized" feel about Mr. Lewis' newest adventure into wonderland. If Mr. Lewis wants to argue that he is going to organize the unorganized by raiding A. F. of L. building trades unions, we will hire him a hall and let him talk all day, but it won't get him anywhere. Because the facts are just the opposite and everybody knows it.

Nor will the workers in the building trades fall for Mr. Lewis' "bargain sale" offer of low dues and no initiation fee. They know that the next step inevitably would be for Mr. Lewis to offer their services to employers at "bargain" rates—in other words, sell them down the river. Otherwise he couldn't possibly get a wedge in the industry. Mr. Lewis may be able to get away with such tactics in his own mining bailiwick, but if he ever tries it in the building trades he is likely to find himself in a jam.

There is no doubt that Mr. Lewis has been nursing the ambition of invading the construction field for some time. He has time and again tried to pull a little raid in one city and another only to get his ears beaten in. The same thing will happen again every time he tries it.

But in the long run, Mr. Lewis' attempt to make a nuisance of himself to the building trades unions should prove of everlasting benefit to them. If ever anything could be counted on to knit these unions tighter together, it is this sort of threat from the outside. It would be a boon to the entire labor movement if the building trades unions, realizing their mutual interests, would cooperate more closely on matters of common concern to all of them.

We Live and Learn

And now a word about those who have been trying to knock the building trades unions on another front. They are a strange crowd, these anti-labor folk. You will find reactionary tories and extreme leftists side by side lifting up their voices in a raucous chorus about the allegedly high cost of labor in the construction field.

Well, we expect squawks from the tories whose wage-cutting policies are notorious, but what about the self-styled liberals? How can they excuse their presence in such company?

The answer is politics.

Some of the smart-alecks on the extreme left side of the political ledger don't approve of certain leaders of building trade unions. They would much rather see John L. Lewis in political control of the labor movement's partner. Comes the revolution, they expect John L. to be on their side or even carrying their standard.

So, forgetful of the fate of their last attempted purge, the boys on the left have started the ballyhoo against the building trade unions. One of their stooges—the only political columnist in Washington who doesn't sign his right name to his stuff—started the ball rolling with a blast against these unions. He repeated the usual baloney about "high wage rates" creating a bottleneck in the construction industry.

Well, let's see about these "high" wage rates. The average pay of the building trades worker is $1,172 a year. Is that a high wage? Isn't a man who, for seasonal and outdoor reasons, gets only a few months work each year, entitled to high hourly rates?

Let the gentlemen who are so concerned about these "high" wages attend to their own knitting a little more closely. Let them concentrate on trying to restore business confidence and business activity instead of threatening to "smash" unions and "slash" wages. It would be good news for the whole country.

(Released by the American Federation of Labor Weekly News Service)

Green Urges Congress To Pass Four Labor Measures Before Adjournment

Failure to Restore Prevailing Wage on WPA Work, Continue WPA Art Projects, and Pass Housing, PWA, and Public Contracts Bills Would Turn Congressional Procedure Into a Sham, He Declares.

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

Washington, D. C.—President William Green of the American Federation of Labor issued the following statement regarding labor measures that should be enacted into law by the present session of Congress:

"The American Federation of Labor respectfully urges Congress to give serious consideration before adjournment to several pending measures which we consider vital to the economic security of the nation.

"Specifically we ask favorable action on the [illegible] major bills:

"1. The Murray amendment to the WPA Act which would restore the payment of prevailing wages on WPA projects and right the great wrong committed when Congress dropped the prevailing wage principle from the measure adopted June 30. In addition, appropriations should be made for the continuance of the art projects.

"2. The Starnes bill providing a $350,000,000 appropriation for useful construction projects under the PWA. Without this appropriation, the PWA may have to go out of existence and the recovery drive would be seriously retarded.

"3. The bill authorizing the United States Housing Authority to borrow an additional $800,000,000 for the expansion of its slum-clearance and housing program.

"4. Amendments to the Walsh-Healey Act, already passed by the Senate.

"Already the shameful stalling performance in both houses of Congress on the amendments to the Wagner Act sponsored by the American Federation of Labor has apparently reduced the possibility of any action on this highly important matter at this session to a bare minimum.

"It is inconceivable that Congress in its impatient haste to adjourn should similarly evade responsibility by failing to act on the above outlined measures. Such tactics, in the face of the nation's pressing needs, can only result in making a mockery out of our legislative processes.

"We earnestly hope that instead Congress will measure up to its responsibilities and act affirmatively on these measures before adjourning."

Green Presents Scroll to President Van Horn of the Cigar Makers' Union

Recites Services to Organized Labor Rendered by Officials and Members of the Union.

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

Washington, D. C.—A colorful ceremony took place in the American Federation of Labor Building here when President Green presented an illuminated scroll to President R. E. Van Horn of the Cigar Makers' International Union in recognition of the union's 75th anniversary.

The presentation, which was one of the events in the second day's program of the Diamond Jubilee Celebration of the Cigar Makers' Union, occurred in President Green's office in the presence of the union's executive board and other trade unionists.

At the top of the scroll is a 75 carat diamond, with the inscription "1864" on the left and "1939" on the right.

The text of the scroll reads:

DIAMOND JUBILEE

Cigarmakers International Union of America

In recognition of the invaluable service rendered to the American Labor Movement and to the American Nation by the Cigarmakers International Union

In memory and appreciation of the outstanding leadership fostered by the Cigarmakers International Union in the persons of Samuel Gompers, George W. Perkins and Adolf Strasser

And with sincere gratitude to all the members of the Cigar Makers' International Union for their untiring devotion and unfaltering courage in the fight for a richer and fuller life

This Scroll is inscribed and presented by the American Federation of Labor.

WILLIAM GREEN,
President of the American Federation of Labor.

In connection with the ceremony, Mr. Green presented William H. Hewlin, engrosser of charters issued by the American Federation of Labor, as the artist who had engrossed the illuminated scroll.

A.F.OF L. COUNCIL MEETS IN ATLANTIC CITY AUG. 7

Washington, D. C. (AFLWNS)—Frank Morrison, secretary-treasurer of the American Federation of Labor, announced that the Summer meeting of the Executive Council of the Federation will convene on Monday, August 7, at Atlantic City, N. J.

The Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor consists of the president of the A. F. of L., the secretary-treasurer, and fifteen vice presidents.

Monster Labor Parade Is Staged For New York City on August 12

Led by Mayor La Guardia, the Event Will Welcome Delegates to the 76th Annual Convention of the American Federation, Representing One Million A. F. of L. Members.

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

New York, N. Y.—The largest and most impressive labor parade in the history of the United States will be staged in New York City on Saturday, Aug. 12.

More than 200,000 members of American Federation of Labor unions will march up Fifth Avenue on that day as a gesture of welcome to the delegates to the seventy-sixth annual convention of the New York State Federation of Labor.

The parade will be led by Mayor La Guardia, in flying togs, as a member of the Air Line Pilots Association of the A. F. of L.

The convention, which is the first ever to be held by the State Federation in New York City, opens at the Hotel Commodore on Tuesday, Aug. 15, and continues through Thursday, Aug. 17. George Meany is president of the New York State Federation of Labor.

William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor; Governor Herbert H. Lehman, Mayor La Guardia, Governor Administrator Elmer F. Andrews, State Industrial Commissioner Frieda Miller, State Attorney-General John J. Bennett, Jr., and other notables will address the convention.

Thomas J. Lyons, president of the Central Trades and Labor Council of Greater New York, is chairman of the general arrangements committee. Charles E. Sinnigen, secretary of the Central Union Label Council, heads the committee which is in charge of arrangements for the monster parade.

A visit to the World's Fair, a banquet and a boat ride around Manhattan have been arranged for the delegates, who will represent the more than 1,000,000 members of A. F. of L. organizations in the State.

President Meany has expressed confidence that the parade and convention will prove one of the greatest of A. F. of L. is far and away the dominant labor organization in New York State.

BAER LAUDS CIGAR MAKERS' LEADERS

Union Which Included Samuel Gompers as a Member and Officer Was First Labor Organization to Use the Union Label, He Declares in Opening 75th Anniversary Celebration; Van Horn Says A. F. of L. Grew Out of Cigar Makers' Union.

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

Washington, D. C.—Deserved tributes to the founders, officers and members of the Cigar Makers' International Union of America were paid by John Baer, member of Congress from North Dakota from 1917 to 1921 and now the well-known labor economist, in an address at the Samuel Gompers Memorial here opening the three-day ceremonies connected with the Diamond Jubilee celebrating the founding of the International Union.

Mr. Baer, who was chairman of the meeting, said:

"Ladies and gentlemen and fellow members of trade unions: On behalf of Mr. Gompers, secretary-treasurer of the Union Label Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor, who greatly regrets his inability to be present today, I bring greetings from the department of the American Federation of Labor to extend our hearty felicitations and sincere greetings to the Cigar Makers' International Union of America on this 75th anniversary of its formation—its Diamond Jubilee.

"The Cigar Makers have been very fortunate in their leadership. While they were the pioneer movement in the American Labor movement, and naturally were the first to adopt the union label, perhaps among their greatest achievements was that of being blessed with a splendid leadership.

"No organization can succeed unless it has active, helpful and able leaders, and the Cigar Makers' International Union of America has had those leaders.

Cites Keynote of Gompers' Philosophy

"One of those great leaders was the late Samuel Gompers. No praise or eulogy of him is necessary. Every one knows what he did for the labor movement. His philosophy is well expressed in his dying words. He said at that time:

"'Say to the organized workers of America that as I have kept the faith I keep the faith to the end of life. They must carry on. Say to them that a man is not free who is not a good citizen unless he upholds the institutions of our country and a government that is free. Say that he holds the institutions of our country and forges his obligations to his trade inseparable.'

"That is the message left by that great leader. It was in one time the president of the Cigar Makers' International Union.

Praises Perkins

"Another great leader was produced by the Cigar Makers' International Union, second only to the late Samuel Gompers, and that was George W. Perkins, who was at one time president of the Union Label Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor.

"Upon the death I. M. Ornburn, president of the Cigar Makers' International Union, became secretary of the Union Label Trades Department, as Ornburn expected to be here today, but greatly regrets his inability to be present.

"Last, but not least, one of those outstanding leaders of the Union is in accordance with the dying request of Samuel Gompers, is R. E. Van Horn, president of the Cigar Makers' International Union of America, whom I have the pleasure of introducing to you at this time."

President Van Horn's Response

In response, President Van Horn said:

"Mr. Chairman, President Green, ladies and gentlemen: I sincerely hope that every trade unionist and delegates met in New York City, which opened with the formal celebration of the Cigar Makers' International Union of America, that it was a success, as it is here today. If it had been, we might not have had any Cigar Makers' International Union. You know in the meeting the needs were soon that organization. From that came the thought of a federation of all the unions. I think it came from the general organization in that shop in New York, in which Samuel Gompers and these other men of New York, chairman of the general arrangements committee. Charles E. Sinnigen, secretary of the Central Union Label Council, heads the committee which is in charge of arrangements for the monster parade.

A visit to the World's Fair, a banquet and a boat ride around Manhattan have been arranged for the delegates, who will represent the more than 1,000,000 members of A. F. of L. organizations in the State.

President Meany has expressed confidence that the parade and convention will prove one of the greatest of A. F. of L. is far and away the dominant labor organization in New York State.

American Federation of Labor Defends Gompers' Philosophy, Green Declares

Fighting All Attempts "To Set Aside Democratic Procedure and Substitute Therefor Autocracy, Minority Control, and Force Within the A. F. of L.," He Says at Cigar Makers' Union Jubilee.

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

Washington, D. C.—The American Federation of Labor is resolutely defending the philosophy of Samuel Gompers against all assaults and will continue to do so tomorrow and forever. This militant statement featured the address of William Green, president of the federation, in an address here launching the three-day Diamond Jubilee of the Cigar Makers' International Union of America.

The ceremonial, held in the shadow of the Gompers Memorial at Tenth street and Massachusetts avenue northwest, were opened by three trumpeters in the braid jackets of 75 years ago. Mr. Gompers, president of the A. F. of L., occupying one year, from 1886 until his death in 1924, was a member of the Cigar Makers' Union and its delegate to the 1881 labor congress that formed the American Federation of Labor.

The position of the A. F. of L., Mr. Green said, is the same as that expressed once by Mr. Gompers and now engraved on the base of the monument:

"No lasting gain has ever come from compulsion. If we seek to force we tear apart that which, united, is invincible. There is no way whereby our labor movement may be assured sustained progress in determining its policies other than sincere democratic deliberation until a unanimous decision is reached. This may seem a cumbrous and slow method to the impatient, but the impatient are more concerned with immediate triumph than with education and constructive development."

In introducing Mr. Green, John M. Baer, a Representative in Congress from North Dakota from 1917 to 1921 and now the well-known labor economist, who was chairman of the meeting, said:

"The influence of any labor union never reaches the highest standard until it is affiliated with the American Federation of Labor. Only then will its influence be effectively felt.

"We have here today two great leaders, President William Green and our beloved Frank Morrison, secretary-treasurer of the American Federation of Labor. These men have carried on the fight that Samuel Gompers urged the workers of America to carry on.

"In introducing the next speaker, it is unnecessary for me to say anything about him. We all know him, we all love him, we all admire him. The respect him as one of our splendid citizens and greatest labor leader in the world, William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor."

GREEN'S SPEECH

Following is the text of Mr. Green's address:

"Chairman Baer, President Van Horn, members of the Executive Board of the Cigar Makers' International Union of America, fellow trade unionists, ladies and gentlemen:

"This is indeed an historic occasion. It is historic because we are here today to pay tribute to the courage to participate in the celebration of the 75th anniversary of an international union affiliated with the American Federation of Labor.

"I know you are all deeply impressed with the historic sequence of this event, meeting here, as we are, at the base of this great American Federation of Labor monument, in the shadow of the statue of that great leader who sacrificed almost half a century of his life to the upbuilding of the American labor movement. It seems appropriate and fitting that the opening ceremonies of this Diamond Jubilee of the Cigar Makers' International Union of America should be held here.

Applauds the A. F. of L.

"It is worthy of note that the formation of this great organization preceded the formation of the American Federation of Labor.

"It was formed, organized, established and began to function before the American Federation of Labor was formed. In fact, it was the one outstanding and leading organization of labor that led and participated in the formation of the American Federation of Labor.

"In the light of that fact, it seems quite fitting that the American Federation of Labor should have called upon this organization for leadership. And its first leader, its first great leader, the man we loved, the man we revered in a larger sense, perhaps, in the hearts and minds of the membership of the American Federation of Labor than any other single man, my distinguished predecessor, the splendid mighty Samuel Gompers, was given to the American Federation of Labor by the Cigar Makers' International Union of America.

"He was educated in the school of trade unionism, developed in the open forum of debate and service by this organization. He expounded his own economic philosophy, and the records show that the same economic philosophy is still a part of the economic philosophy of the American Federation of Labor.

Promoted Factory Reform

"At this time it seems fitting and appropriate for me to point out the interesting and, I might say, unique policy sponsored by the Cigar Makers' International Union of America.

"I should like to carry you back in retrospection to the development of this organization. Cigars were made by hand. It called for experience and skill and training of years to make cigars.

"Now, far as I know, cigarettes were not on the market at that time. At any rate, I am sure, the ladies at that time did not smoke cigarettes as extensively as they do today. Cigars were rolled and made by hand. The change in the method of manufacture took place many years later.

"One of the great fights in which these splendid men and women pioneered was for the development of wholesome surroundings, well-lighted places, and improved and proper sanitary conditions. The Cigar Makers' International Union led in that fight for factory reform, for the development of cleaner and more decent and sanitary manufacturing plants.

Carrie' on Unique Educational Work

"But that was not all. The members of the Cigar Makers' International Union of America developed and fully appreciated the value of education.

"While the cigar makers were engaged in the manufacture of cigars, there was always some outstanding member of the union who sat by and read a book or paper while the workers were steadily employed.

"I can readily visualize that my distinguished predecessor, Samuel Gompers; and that equally distinguished leader of the Cigar Makers' International Union of America, Brother George Perkins, Brother Strasser, just referred to by a previous speaker, and other leaders rolling their cigars, making them out of their skill and training, while an important and distinguished member of the union sat by reading from a book on economics or politics, or the news of the day.

"They absorbed information and acquired knowledge and education while steadily engaged at their work. As a result, of that information and knowledge and education undoubtedly came the movement to which I have referred for better working conditions and decent wages for cigar makers.

"But I am dwelling too much upon these matters. I want to say that I am proud of the opportunity afforded me with you who belong to this organization, to take part in these preliminary exercises celebrating the 75th anniversary of the formation of this great organization.

Tribute to Gompers

"It seems proper to refer again to that great man, Samuel Gompers. Our hearts were broken when we learned that he had passed into the Great Beyond. He had given 70 years of his life to labor and to our great movement. He was an outstanding member of the Cigar Makers' International Union of America. If the great organization had played no greater part in our movement than giving to the world Samuel Gompers, trained in the school of trade unionism, that organization would have fully justified its existence.

"When it was determined to erect this fine monument, it was thought proper to inscribe upon it some of his splendid statements. They were selected by a committee appointed to provide for the erection of this wonderful monument, the first in Washington, in honor of Samuel Gompers. And so we examined his writings and speeches carefully and analytically and we selected what we thought was the best, to be inscribed upon this monument. Just listen:

Opposed Compulsion

"'No lasting gain has ever come from compulsion. If we seek to force we but tear apart that which, united, is invincible. There is no way whereby our labor movement may be assured sustained progress in determining its policies other than sincere democratic deliberation until a unanimous decision is reached. This may seem a cumbrous and slow method to the impatient, but the impatient are more concerned with immediate triumph than with education and constructive development.'

Pledges Fight Against Autocracy

"There is a literary gem, full of fine thought, inspiration? That is the position of the American Federation of Labor today in resisting compulsion, in resisting an attempt to set aside democratic procedure and substitute therefor autocracy, minority control, and force within the American Federation of Labor. And that I pledge you, standing here in the shadow of this great man, will never be accomplished within the organized labor movement of our nation.

"Now I must close, and I appeal to all the members of our movement, and who admire it, all who are present here, to rededicate themselves to the philosophy of this great man, to the advancement of the cause of the American Federation of Labor.

"Let us again renew our vow that, come what may, let it be today, tomorrow or forever, we will stand undismayed in defense of the splendid economic philosophy, expounded by this great leader of the American labor movement."

Watt Urges International Peace In the Interest of the Toilers

American Workers Delegate to Geneva Labor Conference Declares Plans Must Be Developed So That "The Millions Now Being Employed in Making Guns or Bullets or Bombers Can Be Absorbed Into the Business of Making Useful Machinery for Production of Goods For Human Enjoyment"; Raps Hitler for Criticism of Unemployment Conditions in United States.

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

World peace as the basis of prosperity for the masses, instead of international trade rivalries, tariff barriers and the manufacture of armaments, was urged by Robert J. Watt, American Federation of Labor representative to the International Labor Conference at Geneva, Switzerland, as necessary to protect the liberty of working people in every country and to guarantee them the high standard of living to which they are rightly entitled because of their enormous wealth-creating power under the prevailing system of production based on machinery.

He emphasized the fact that interchange of goods is necessary for the welfare of the masses in every country, but said this interchange was threatened with destruction when some nations, notably Germany, like Hitler's Nazi regime in Germany, base their production on compulsory labor and low wages, which inevitably ruin decent competition.

Mr. Watt's address follows, in part:

"The workers of America believe that the free nations of the world have every reason to abandon jealousy, strife and suspicion in favor of a common will to promote the welfare of their citizens through commercial interchange based upon good faith and good will.

Menace of Low Wages

"To me, as American Workers' delegate, the present world situation appears to threaten severe opportunity peril. If any industrial nation conscripts labor to produce goods at starvation wages to enable it to undersell its competitors in international trade, how are we going to meet that competition?

"In the United States a condition once existed where farm laborers in backward areas were lured into mill villages by the jingle of a little hard cash. They worked long hours and lived on low wages. They ruined decent competitors. They also ruined trade, because they killed off much of the purchasing power on which all industrialists must depend.

"The result has been the enactment of a Federal Fair Labor Standards Act, to establish a floor below which wages should not go and a ceiling beyond which hours of work may not be raised without substantial extra charges.

"But how can we apply such a formula to protect working standards in a decent nation from being dragged down, or the employment opportunities themselves destroyed, by the totalitarian exploitation of human labor in foreign countries?

13-HOUR DAY IMPOSED ON BRITISH WORKERS

A resolution adopted by the annual conference of the British General Federation of Trade Unions demanded the restoration of the working hours of male adult workers along the same lines as the Factories Act applies to female adult workers.

A delegate from the Hosiery Union said that with the expansion of industry in the depressed areas, men were sometimes only too glad to take work under almost any conditions.

It was not unusual to go into some of those areas and find men working anything from 70 to 84 hours a week.

Another Hosiery Union delegate said he knew of one industry where men actually worked 13 hours out of every 12.

Instead of having the usual break for lunch, one man did the work of two during that period.

The result was that the machinery was working the whole 24 hours, but the employers were getting 36 hours' production in the 24.

EDITORIALS

Solving the Unemployment Problem

Despite all legislative tinkering, extending over a period of ten years, the tragedy of millions of able-bodied working men and women consigned to the unemployed army by the refusal of those who own and operate the American system of production and distribution, remains the great unsolved problem for the Congress of the United States.

The persistence of the unemployed problem was emphasized by Senator Allen W. Barkley of Kentucky in sponsoring the bill to create a fund of the $2,900,000,000 bill for financing recoverable (self-liquidating) expenditures of Federal funds, a large portion of this vast amount being designed for use as loans to business concerns.

After outlining the billions of dollars already spent by the Federal Government to end unemployment by financing the Works Progress Administration, the Public Works Administration, and the Civilian Conservation Corps, Senator Barkley said:

"Notwithstanding the fact that we have unheeded credit and unbounded resources, and that we have a system which has been multiplying and accumulating over a period of years, drawn from nearly every other nation of the world, due to world conditions we still have a very serious economic condition, involving the unemployment of almost 10,000,000 able-bodied men who are anxious to work, who desire to make their contribution toward recovery and toward the sale enjoyment of normal life in this nation, but who are without employment today through no fault of their own. * * * We have such a condition that money and credit are not functioning together in sufficient proximity with the resources to bring about the production of commodities for sale in the market place, resulting in purchasing power on the part of the American people sufficient to enable them to absorb employment. * * * So we now find ourselves with millions of our people unemployed. We find ourselves with undeveloped resources. We find a lack of purchasing power on the part of the people, and we find ourselves with the average family of America which makes it impossible for the American people to enjoy the degree of prosperity to which they are entitled, a lack of faith in the future which, in my judgment, are essential to the perpetuity of our institutions."

And a major remedy for this tragedy of unemployment, Senator Barkley declared, is the enactment by Congress of the bill placing $2,490,000,000 at the disposal of the Government for financing recoverable expenditures.

Incidentally, Secretary Morgenthau is not quite as optimistic as Senator Barkley appears to be with regard to unemployment relief which the big spending bill will achieve. In his testimony on this subject before the Senate Banking and Currency Committee, he admitted that the expenditures authorized by the bill would provide employment for 500,000 jobless, which, if we regard the present size of the unemployed army as practically static, would still leave 8,500,000 without jobs, paying nothing of the 250,000 new workers added to our employable millions every year.

There is one remedy for unemployment, advocated by the American Federation of Labor, which the United States Congress has not, as yet, had the courage to consider seriously. That remedy is the maximum thirty-hour week, without reduction in weekly wages. The A. F. of L. remedy would undoubtedly make such large inroads in the unemployed army that at least a practical and patriotic approach to a solution of the problem of millions of jobless men and women would be developed.

Bombed by a Friend

(From the New York Herald Tribune)

It is, of course, entirely natural and proper that the House Labor Committee, which is considering amendments to the Wagner act, should listen to officers of the Congress of Industrial Organizations in defense of the status quo. But the more unfortunate the record that the administration of the act by the National Labor Relations Board has been fair, the more serious it becomes that charges of the board's bias in favor of the C. I. O. are true. When a violent partisan like Mr. Philip Murray, vice-president of the C. I. O. and Lewis's chief lieutenant, can see nothing unfair in the rulings of the board, he doubtless sets the case against it.

Mr. Murray in his testimony was particularly concerned with the amendment sought by the American Federation of Labor which would compel the Labor Board to certify a craft unit if a majority of its members so desire, even if a majority of its members so voted. The amendment is aimed at the present power of the board to designate whatever bargaining unit it chooses, whether craft, plant or employer unit—a power which has not been upheld by the courts and most conspicuously in the case of the Pacific Coast longshoremen, to boost the C. I. O. type of organization at the expense of the A. F. of L. The amendment would implement the confessed object of the Wagner act, which is to permit workers to bargain collectively through representatives of their own choosing as distinct from those selected for them by the employer under the political pressure exerted by Lewis. But Mr. Murray says it would "break up the industrial unions in favor of the various crafts and "conflict with the democratic principle of majority rule."

What it would break up is simply the conspiracy that has existed between the Labor Board and the C. I. O. to prevent the latter's domination of labor. Perhaps under modern conditions of production the industrial union is theoretically the more logical form of organization. Certainly, in the mass industries, where the mere machine is king, it is little more than a cog in the machine, the argument for organization along industrial lines seems conclusive. But even here human nature interposes with its obdurate desire for differentiation. All of the workers, are proud to be known by individual skill, and the more specialized it is the prouder they are of it. Thus, when they can claim a craft union as their own they are apt to be identified with it, and to organize and fight for it, than to submerge themselves without distinction in a vast army of operatives. Call this snobbery if you will; it is, none the less, a fundamental factor in the case. And to try any attempt, bureaucratic or other, to break it down must result in either defeat or tyranny. That such an attempt is at the bottom of the Lewis-Labor Board partnership we can doubt.

Mr. Murray evidently considers this attempt a contribution to democracy. But which is the more democratic—to recognize and safeguard the right of workers who want to organize and bargain by craft or not, or to let by an arbitrary selection of the bargaining unit, to force upon them representatives in whom they have no interest in, or very possibly hostile to, their particular demands and problems?

Mr. Murray says that "there have been occasions when an A. F. of L. affiliate has acted like a company union," and he adds that "to a startling degree certain A. F. of L. unions have begun to offer themselves to employers as antidotes to the C. I. O." So another undemocratic feature of craft organization is its proneness to understand and cooperate with the employer in making a go of their common enterprise. Apparently his conception of democracy—at least in the labor movement—is not to have but any approach to class fraternization. Rather obviously it is the same conception on which the Labor Board has been acting, and it constitutes the best reason in the world for a thorough revision both of the law and the board.

The Price of Stalling

(From the Scripps-Howard Newspapers)

All through the present session of Congress Administration forces, abetted by the C. I. O., have rallied every demands for amendments to make enforcement of the Wagner Labor Relations Act fairer and better.

The lack of wisdom in these tactics is emphasized by the overwhelming vote the House passed yesterday—almost two-to-one—for a sterner investigation of the National Labor Relations Board by a specially appointed House committee.

Ordinarily an investigation of the NLRB, if ordered, would be conducted by the regular House Committee. But that committee has been holding hearings on proposed Wagner Act amendments for many weeks—and is now about to finish them—and without reporting out any of these amendments for action by the House.

By authorizing a special investigating committee a majority of nearly 2 to 1 in the House has served notice that it has little confidence in the ability of the regular Labor Committee. It reflected accurately, we think, the distinctly safe feeling throughout the country that the arbitrary policies adopted by the NLRB and with the Administration's unwillingness to let the Wagner Act be so amended that the NLRB could no longer twist the law to fit its own peculiar ideas.

We know, of course, the argument that opening up the act to any amendments might have encouraged its enemies to try to emasculate it. But the Administration would have been wiser to have taken that chance. If, now, there is an unfriendly investigation of the Labor Board, and if that is followed by the hasty session of Congress by amendments going far beyond the reasonable and necessary changes proposed in this session, the Administration and the C. I. O. will have themselves to blame.

Iowa Limits Unemployment Compensation For Workers Discharged For Misconduct

Des Moines, Iowa (AFLWNS)—the same as if he had been separated from service because of his own fault.

"This has been changed, and the law now specifically directs that misconduct in unemployment compensation. In a statement described by the new rule the Iowa Unemployment Compensation Commission said:

"Under the old law an employe was denied benefits for the week in which he was separated for misconduct, and for not more than nine weeks immediately following such week.

"In that type of case the worker, after having been discharged for the most flagrant misconduct, could wait nine weeks following the week in which the separation occurred, and then file his claim, pass his waiting period weeks and draw benefits just

"This simply means that after an individual has been discharged for misconduct in connection with his employment that he shall be denied benefits for the penalty weeks. The claimant will lose the benefits he was assessed against him for the penalty weeks. The commission must now administer this provision fairly in the interest of all parties who are interested in this program and to investigate carefully the acts alleged to constitute the misconduct."

Watt Urges International Peace In the Interest of the Toilers

(Continued from Page 1)

to furnish cheap goods to be bartered for needed domestic products.

Trade Manipulations Condemned

"We must recognize that the extreme manipulations of international trade, such as currency dumping, the famous sleight-of-hand technique of certain nations, cannot long be tolerated by a free nation, without the risk of economic demoralization of the domestic market. Unless such tactics are soon ended, such aggression can be checked only by one of two alternatives.

"One possibility is a similar regimentation of labor, or a Government subsidy to permit a counter-offensive. The other way is to erect an effective tariff wall to keep out such destructive commerce and to attempt to find domestic substitutes for material normally imported.

Hits Concentration-Camp Products

"Either of these methods would serve chiefly to depress the living wages and living standards of the entire nation and of the other nations with which we exchange goods.

"On behalf of the American workers, I say that the International Labor Organization must and should seek to find economic measures which will safeguard the people of free nations, who wish to be good neighbors in buying and selling from one another, from the unfair competition, the destructive infiltration of sweatshop or concentration-camp products.

"I am not talking now about ideologies. I am talking bread and butter. Our people back home may be suspicious of agitation on theoretical problems. But if our people very quickly understand when our livelihoods are jeopardized by 'power politics' concerned in trade tyrannies, our time would find ready acceptance by the American people if they found it necessary to join in the cut-throat international competition.

Workers Monopolized For Armaments Production

"Last year, I urged that attention be given to the problem of absorbing into peaceful trades the millions of workers now engaged in the armament business. I regret that circumstances have postponed consideration of that problem. In fact today, the productive efforts of man are being more and more monopolized by the creation of tools of destruction. Thus the problem, while delayed in appearance, is inevitably becoming a more mammoth one.

"However, we cannot cure this disease without diagnosing its causes. Economic and political rivalries have produced insecurity. Insecurity has in turn produced armaments. If we could state these causes, we would help reduce insecurity and so reduce the need for armaments.

Urges Production for Human Enjoyment

"We must give thought to the ways in which the millions now being employed in making bullets and bombers can be absorbed into the business of making useful machines for production of goods for human enjoyment.

"Armaments have perhaps the smallest problem of any industrial nation on this score.

"When Mr. Hitler pointed to severe unemployment in America, he neglected to say that we have failed to give relief work or sustenance to those people while honestly counting them as unemployed. This is why, in this country, they have been put on the destructive work of building guns or manufacturing ersatz goods, or of drilling and parading."

MACHINERY DESTROYS JOBS FOR WORKERS, WPA WARNS

Increased Output of Toilers Who Remain at Work Constantly Decreases the Number Required in Industry; Shorter Work Week Held Necessary to Protect the Job Right of Employed Workers and Provide Employment for the Unemployed.

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

Washington, July 24.—The persistent contention of the American Federation of Labor that the remedy for unemployment, largely caused by substitution of machinery for the labor power of working men and women, is the thirty-hour week, has been emphasized by the warning given in a report issued by the Works Projects Administration against relying on increased production in manufacturing to provide employment through increasing number of workers, leaving out of consideration the millions already in the jobless army.

"The rapid development of new machinery and other labor-displacing methods, it said, may be expected in the future to decrease the number of jobs in manufacturing industries.

Between marked increase in the work week, it contended, or a great increase in production could assure continuation of manufacturing employment at the present level or return it to the level of 1929.

The report, prepared by the WPA National Research Project, covered production, employment and productivity in the manufacturing industries which in 1929 employed 4,000,000 persons or approximately 51 per cent of the manufacturing wage earners and had a production valued at $45,000,000,000 or about 56 per cent of the total in that year.

In less than twenty years, output per man-hour in these industries had increased more than 75 per cent, the report said, and the average hourly wage earner increased space between 1919 and 1929, while the average full-time work week remained fairly constant.

Then between 1929 and 1932, the report showed, production declined 39 per cent, the number of wage earners, 36 per cent, and the number of man-hours worked, 48 per cent. By 1936, production had recovered to 89 per cent of the 1929 level and employment to 91 per cent, but the man-hours of work provided were 27 units less than 1929.

"In view of these facts," the report stated, "it may be expected that if even moderate industrial activity above the 1935 level output per man-hour will exceed the 1929 level, and that if production surpasses the 1929 level and continues upward, output per man-hour will probably advance at a rate comparable at least to that for the period 1929-35.

"In the long run, since output per man-hour seems certain to increase further, manufacturing employment will probably be below that of 1929."

Workers Have Profound Interest In Control of Business Cycles

International Labor Office Visions Government Operation of Industry Unless Free Enterprise Provides Jobs for Unemployed Workers.

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

Geneva, Switzerland.—In reviewing the course of economic development during the year 1938-39 the International Labor Office in a report which has just been published here, emphasizes the social consequences, that the most notable of these is the increasing control over business cycles.

After pointing out that during the last twelve months it has been practically impossible to say that any progress can be reversed by deliberate government action, but that people were less, or more correctly, old problems in a new guise.

Larger Income for Low-Wage Groups Is Urged

"It may well be asked whether increased investment is the appropriate means of allowing full prosperity or whether a distribution of income permitting of increased consumption by the poorer sections of the community is not a preferable solution.

"On the other hand, it will certainly be urged upon governments that one of the major factors in preventing investment from developing as it should be is the costliness of the labor power demanded in conditions of work.

"It will also be alleged that the monopoly conditions obtaining in certain industries are primarily responsible, since they prevent industrial development by restricting output and keeping prices up instead of lowering prices and increasing production.

"In the world of today, also, there is the further question, hitherto unsolved, of how employers and workers alike, of industry being converted into part of the State machinery if free enterprise conspicuously fails to solve the unemployment problem."

Unbalanced Budgets and Recovery

"On the other hand, the full success of such a measure is contingent upon means being found of achieving a high level of business activity once the decline has been checked.

"Provided this can be done, budgetary deficit incurred for the purpose of reinforcing purchasing power will be balanced by increased purchases during the intervening years.

"Failing this, a serious problem arises. Either a country must contribute to pile up deficits or else it must refrain from sustain from taking the necessary measures to counteract depression. The latter course is not likely to be pursued by the people of countries.

"On the other hand, to incur a series of budgetary deficits is disturbing and in the end is liable to impair government credit. This danger must not be exaggerated.

"The widely held view that in some manner it is unsound to run into debt for armaments but unsound to do so for the same things for public works which are used as a stabilizing factor and result, moreover, in real values being produced, is being more and more questioned.

"Nevertheless, until the control of business cycles is substantially self-financing, it cannot be looked upon as satisfactory."

Investment and Prosperity

The Year Book then urges the need for taking reflationary measures from time to time to prevent a tendency developing into a slump as well as the need for securing that such measures are followed by private and public activities which can serve as means of increasing and maintaining the stream of investment.

"Both workers and employers are directly affected by these developments," it says. "Probably no single factor could do more to promote social justice and to improve labour conditions generally than the control of business cycles. Failing this, no measure also, sustained demand means an avoidance of losses and an enhanced ability to plan for the future.

"This new phase in the struggle brings with it, however, new problems, or more correctly, old problems in a new guise.

SCOTTISH CO-OPS SERVE 900,000

Sales Last Year Amounted to $147,000,000; Employes, Numbering 30,500, Are Trade Union Members and Retire at 65 on Pensions.

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

New York, N. Y.—The cooperative movement in Scotland, with 900,000 heads of families as members, lead the cooperatives of the world in percentage of membership, in sales per member, and in the amount of goods produced in cooperative factories for cooperative members, according to Neil S. Beaton, president of the Scottish Cooperative Wholesale Society, in an interview at the Co-op Center here.

"Three-fifths of the families in Scotland are members of the local cooperatives which do 15 per cent of all retail trade in the country," Mr. Beaton declared. "Cooperative bakeries in Scotland's milk is handled through cooperative agencies, and they sell 20 per cent of the coal, 20 per cent of the bread, and 28 per cent of the meat trade is done by the co-ops," Mr. Beaton said. "Still better, Mr. Beaton said, "will be between the cooperative and the chain stores."

The Scottish Cooperative Wholesale Society owns factories producing boots and shoes, clothing, biscuits, sophatts, linen, blankets, tweeds, linoleum, jams, coffees, confections, biscuits, furniture, furniture and household supplies. Last year, these factories produced $15,000,000 worth of goods while retail cooperative societies reported sales of $112,000,000 as against of $6,000,000 over the sales for 1937.

Mr. Beaton pointed out that all of the 14,500 employes of the Scottish Cooperative Society and the 16,000 employees of retail cooperatives are members of trade unions, and the co-ops provide vacations with pay and sick leave, and require that all employees retire at 65 years on pensions paid by the cooperatives.

The cooperative electric light bulb factory just completed in Glasgow and owned jointly by the Scottish and Swedish cooperatives will be dedicated when Mr. Beaton and the other members of the Scottish delegation return to their home country, August 1st. Mr. Beaton is accompanied on the American tour by John MacKenzie, director of the Scottish Cooperative Wholesale Society, and David Muir, manager of the cooperative flour mills.

"A new venture in cooperative business will be launched the first of October," Mr. Beaton said, "when the cooperatives will finance the instalment purchase of furniture, radios, and household goods manufactured by reliable goods. It is expected that at least $35,000,000 worth of goods will be purchased on this plan during the coming year.

"The double taxation on cooperatives levied by the national government has acted as a boomerang, creating opposition in favor of the co-ops and stimulating their trade," Mr. Beaton said. In addition to regular property taxes and individual income taxes, the co-ops are assessed a tax of 2½ per cent on all income transferred to reserves or used to purchase new equipment.

902,827 WORK FOR U. S. GOVERNMENT

Monthly Pay Roll Totals $136,387,121; Over 122,000 Are Employed in the District of Columbia.

Washington, D. C. (AFLWNS)—The United States Civil Service Commission announced that employment in the executive branch of the Government showed an increase in May which was chiefly of a seasonal nature.

"Civil employes in the executive branch of the Federal Government, it said, "totaled 902,827 during May, an increase of 17,061 or 1.9 per cent since April. The May pay roll was $136,387,121 as compared to $135,426,857 for the previous month, an increase of 0.7 per cent. This slightly greater increase in pay roll than in employment resulted from the fact that there were more working days in May than in April, thereby increasing the earnings of the per diem and per hour employes.

"Employment increased 899 in the District of Columbia and 16,162 outside the District of Columbia, bringing the total number of employes in the District to 122,827 and 779,925 outside the District, a total of 902,827 employes in the service, 79,548 were "temporary" employes (persons employed directly by the Federal Government for construction projects, such as naval vessels or road construction), 784,250 were "permanent" employes, and 38,029 were part-time employes engaged in other capacities. For the month the compensation of part-time employes averaged $64.

"Employes paid from funds provided by the Emergency Relief Appropriation Acts of 1938 and prior years totaled 87,350 or 7.4 per cent of the total employes in the executive branch of the service. There was a decrease in this group of 1,133 employes, accounted for by a decrease of over 1,500 persons in the Works Progress Administration.

"In the District of Columbia the increase of 899 was largely in the temporary reported increases which were seasonal in nature; the Federal Government Board reported a sizeable increase due to expansion of its functions. In addition small increases were reported by the Departments of Commerce and Labor, and by the Federal Power Commission. The Treasury Department reported a decrease which resulted from its policy of decentralization.

"Outside the District of Columbia increases, chiefly seasonal, occurred in the Departments of Agriculture, War, Navy, Interior and Commerce."

Nazi Works Corps Are Restricted

Units Set Up by Hitler as Part of Totalitarian Scheme to Destroy Free Trade Unions and Systematize Labor Espionage Are Liquidated as Works Representatives.

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

Paris, France.—The International Federation of Trade Unions, with which the American Federation of Labor is affiliated, issued a statement regarding the recent changes in the structure of the Nazi Works Corps in Germany which were announced by Chancellor Adolf Hitler to destroy the free German trade union movement when the Nazis came into power.

"Before Hitler came into power the 'National Socialist Factory Organization' was the forerunner of the German Labor Front. It was set up by Hitler in order to undermine the trade unions and to make the workers docile tools in the factories. While the unions were destroyed and the German Labor Front was forced on the workers, the Factory Organization had to disappear also.

"But the unions were not 'run over to the Nazi idea of factory fellowship and still held fast to their old trade union ideals.

Workers Were Deceived

"In order to break this resistance, the Nazis therefore created a new organization, the Works Corps, formed out of the nucleus of the old Factory Organization members, and with all the usual military trappings, uniforms, drill, etc., and of course a flag given by the factory leader!

"But all this was only to deceive the workers as to the real aim, which was political agitation for the Nazi Party and the organization of labor espionage. In order that the aim might be easily attained, the workers were forced to join the Works Corps, which was placed under the control of the Labor Front and allotted certain tasks.

Le Outlines Works Corps Functions

Dr. Ley, the leader of the Labor Front, described this work in detail in the 'Volkischer Beobachter' of May 5, 1939:

"The Works Corps, he said, were formed in order to provide a solid nucleus for the whole army of men engaged in the works, and to act as a 'shock brigade' in the execution of the work of the Labor Ley then praises the Works Corps, which, he says, 'provided a guarantee for the National Socialist conception in the works, and carried on propaganda for healthy dwellings, public health, technical training and 'Strength Through Joy.' They also solved practical problems, by showing their fellow workers the necessity, for example, of hygienic conditions, clean places of work, good light and clean washing-rooms.

Ley also praises the work done by the Works Corps in increasing output, and finally states that, as a reward for the 'great sacrifices' and sacrificing work done by the Corps, they would now be incorporated into the section of political leaders and will be entitled to wear their uniforms. To greet the men on the works and am proud that the German Labor Front, as the instrument of the Party, has once again made a great step forward."

"But all this talk about recognition and reward means in reality that the Works Corps have been removed from Ley's command.

Leaders as Works Representatives

"According to Hitler's Order of May 5th, the German Labor Front 'considers itself as the social basis,' which means that the struggle between Ley and Himmler, head of the Gestapo, has been won by the latter.

"The Works Corps cease to be independent bodies and must retire from their functions as works representatives. The uniforms still in possession may be used but no new ones may be acquired.

"Such of the Corps members as have been thoroughly tried will be 'gradually' incorporated into the political Corps of the National Socialist Party. They will remain the 'political leaders of the Works Corps, while the ordinary members will be regarded as candidates for the Party, and functions occur. Where they prove their worth, they will be taken into the Party.

Gestapo Spy System Gets Busy

"The end of the Works Corps represents the finest of a great Nazi hope. Most of the members only wore the black uniform against their will and only joined the Party with the hope of getting the workers into the Party through the Works Corps has proved a failure. Now, with the Corps, they look the part of the workers when opposition broke out. Hitherto class feeling are stronger than National Socialist phraseology!

"Special pressure is being applied to make the Works Corps members better instruments for the Gestapo spying system. In conjunction with the employers, a large-scale exchange of jobs is being arranged. Normally this is only possible through the Labor Exchanges, but this time it will take place without them, the idea being that the persons thus placed in a new job will be able to spy with much more security and secrecy. But the workers will meet certainly soon see through this little game!"

Voluntary Health Insurance Aids Many Wage Earners and Farmers

Industrial Workers Get Complete Medical Care for $3 Per Month; Hospitalization for An Entire Family Costs Farmers $25 Per Year.

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

Editor's Note:—This is the fifth of a series of six articles on "The Wage Earners' Stake in Health," sponsored by the Educational Service of the Workers Education Bureau of America, Inc., 152 West 42nd Street, New York, N. Y. The articles have been specially written by Dr. Michael M. Davis, Director of the Committee on Research in Medical Economics, for their accuracy.

By CONSTANCE KENT

In Baton Rouge, Louisiana, there are about 2000 wage earners and their families who do not have to worry about oncoming and unexpected sickness costs because they pay for them in small sums.

Fourteen years ago, the white employes of the Baton Rouge plant of the Standard Oil Company of Louisiana, set up their medical service organization, the "Stanocola Employes Welfare Association Association." Since then they have built a clinic with laboratory and other facilities; they have selected their own medical staff by vote of their membership and have made the physician practicing in Baton Rouge. Three dollars per month, per member, provides almost complete medical care (except dentistry) for all these wage earners and their families.

Managed by Workers

No employe of the company is compelled to join, but about eighty per cent of the white employes have done so. The monthly payments are made through payroll deductions, the company cooperating in this respect; but the workers manage the Association. There are seven doctors, including five general practitioners, an surgeon and a specialist in eye, ear, nose and throat work. These doctors spend their time at the clinic and also look after patients at home or in any one of the local hospitals where any member or one-of-his-family may go. A hospital care is recommended by one of the doctors. The only limit is that not more than $250 may be spent for any single illness.

Voluntary Plans Benefit Millions

The Stanocola Association has weathered the depression and the original opposition of the local medical profession. This is one of many voluntary health insurance plans organized for the wage earners and their families. About two and one-half million people now secure their medical care in this way, although many of the plans are not as complete or as satisfactory as the one at Baton Rouge. Most of the industrial plans are in railroads, lumbering and mining. Many of these have been running for many years. More than 100 organizations of wage earners or of consumers, cities and towns have started plans of voluntary health insurance, selecting their doctors or cooperating with an already established group of doctors. Examples are in Los Angeles, Chicago, Milwaukee, Washington, D C., and elsewhere.

Farmers Operate Their Own Hospital

In Western Oklahoma the farmers have built and set up voluntary health insurance for themselves and their families, one of the local physicians having had the idea with several other actively-minded farm people. Two thousand farm families have subscribed to the plan, and it is better than under way. They have built their hospital in Elk City, have a staff of doctors and have twice enlarged the hospital since it was started. They subscribe $25 per year for families away, but most are within a few miles of the center. Their organization is known as the Farmers Union Cooperative Hospital Association. It is not for profit. Each member is a stockholder with one vote—no more. They elect a board of five directors who manage the Association's affairs, and who employ a physician director for the medical staff, and a business manager of the hospital.

What does it cost? A member without dependents pays $12 a year. With one dependent, the rate is $18. For the whole family, no matter how large, the annual charge is $25.

Home Medical Service Provided

What do they get for their money? Members can get all the medical service they need in the Elk City non-profit hospital. If they need calls at home they may pay $1.50 per call, plus 25 cents per mile one way. If an ambulance is needed, it will be sent to the house for $1 plus 10 cts a mile one way. If they must stay in the hospital for a serious sickness or an operation, they are charged $1 per day for room, board, and general nursing for 30 days, and $2 per day for any one sickness; $2 per day thereafter.

Scope of Hospital Service

A charge is made for anaesthetics and operating room supplies. No extra charge is made for consultations, physical or laboratory examinations, surgical operations, or obstetrical care. Private nursing is the only extra for days in the hospital without extra charge on recommendation of the attending physician. Dental examinations, X-rays, and extractions are free. There are eight physicians on the staff and two dentists.

Non-members who live in the locality may use the service of the doctors and hospitals, but must pay the usual fees charged by other physicians in the county. The local medical society and the State Medical Society of Oklahoma have fought the Farmers Cooperative Hospital Association, but without success. The Association is now building an enlargement to its hospital.

A number of other farmers' cooperatives are now trying to work out medical-care insurance plans of their own.

Workers Get Complete Medical Care for $3 Per Month

Industrial Workers Get Complete Medical Care for $3 Per Month; Hospitalization for An Entire Family Costs Farmers $25 Per Year.

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

Editor's Note:—This is the fifth of a series of six articles on "The Wage Earners' Stake in Health," sponsored by the Educational Service of the Workers Education Bureau of America, Inc., 152 West 42nd Street, New York, N. Y. The articles have been specially written by Dr. Michael M. Davis, Director of the Committee on Research in Medical Economics, for their accuracy.

By CONSTANCE KENT

In Baton Rouge, Louisiana, there are about 2000 wage earners and their families who do not have to worry about oncoming and unexpected sickness costs because they pay for them in small sums.

Fourteen years ago, the white employes of the Baton Rouge plant of the Standard Oil Company of Louisiana, set up their medical service organization, the "Stanocola Employes Welfare Association Association." Since then they have built a clinic with laboratory and other facilities; they have selected their own medical staff by vote of their membership and have made the physician practicing in Baton Rouge. Three dollars per month, per member, provides almost complete medical care (except dentistry) for all these wage earners and their families.

Managed by Workers

No employe of the company is compelled to join, but about eighty per cent of the white employes have done so. The monthly payments are made through payroll deductions, the company cooperating in this respect; but the workers manage the Association. There are seven doctors, including five general practitioners, an surgeon and a specialist in eye, ear, nose and throat work. These doctors spend their time at the clinic and also look after patients at home or in any one of the local hospitals where any member or one-of-his-family may go. A hospital care is recommended by one of the doctors. The only limit is that not more than $250 may be spent for any single illness.

Voluntary Plans Benefit Millions

The Stanocola Association has weathered the depression and the original opposition of the local medical profession. This is one of many voluntary health insurance plans organized for the wage earners and their families. About two and one-half million people now secure their medical care in this way, although many of the plans are not as complete or as satisfactory as the one at Baton Rouge. Most of the industrial plans are in railroads, lumbering and mining. Many of these have been running for many years. More than 100 organizations of wage earners or of consumers, cities and towns have started plans of voluntary health insurance, selecting their doctors or cooperating with an already established group of doctors. Examples are in Los Angeles, Chicago, Milwaukee, Washington, D C., and elsewhere.

Farmers Operate Their Own Hospital

In Western Oklahoma the farmers have built and set up voluntary health insurance for themselves and their families, one of the local physicians having had the idea with several other actively-minded farm people. Two thousand farm families have subscribed to the plan, and it is better than under way. They have built their hospital in Elk City, have a staff of doctors and have twice enlarged the hospital since it was started. They subscribe $25 per year for families away, but most are within a few miles of the center. Their organization is known as the Farmers Union Cooperative Hospital Association. It is not for profit. Each member is a stockholder with one vote—no more. They elect a board of five directors who manage the Association's affairs, and who employ a physician director for the medical staff, and a business manager of the hospital.

What does it cost? A member without dependents pays $12 a year. With one dependent, the rate is $18. For the whole family, no matter how large, the annual charge is $25.

Home Medical Service Provided

What do they get for their money? Members can get all the medical service they need in the non-profit hospital. If they need calls at home they may pay $1.50 per call, plus 25 cents per mile one way. If an ambulance is needed, it will be sent to the house for $1 plus 10 cts a mile one way. If they must stay in the hospital for a serious sickness or an operation, they are charged $1 per day for room, board, and general nursing for 30 days, and $2 per day for any one sickness; $2 per day thereafter.

Scope of Hospital Service

A charge is made for anaesthetics and operating room supplies. No extra charge is made for consultations, physical or laboratory examinations, surgical operations, or obstetrical care. Private nursing is the only extra for days in the hospital without extra charge on recommendation of the attending physician. Dental examinations, X-rays, and extractions are free. There are eight physicians on the staff and two dentists.

Non-members who live in the locality may use the service of the doctors and hospitals, but must pay the usual fees charged by other physicians in the county. The local medical society and the State Medical Society of Oklahoma have fought the Farmers Cooperative Hospital Association, but without success. The Association is now building an enlargement to its hospital.

A number of other farmers' cooperatives are now trying to work out medical-care insurance plans of their own.